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February 27, 2020

***** For Immediate Release*****

In response to a number of questions and concerns related to Coronavirus, we are sending this news release to keep the Door County community informed.

In Door County, the current risk of exposure to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) remains low.

At Door County Public Health, we have been preparing for emergencies such as a pandemic since 2002 when it became a requirement for health departments. Recently, we have been preparing for the COVID-19 threat specifically. The CDC, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and local health departments are currently monitoring travelers from effected areas. If a traveler is ill they are isolated; well travelers are quarantined, and monitored by local health departments (such as Door County Public Health).

We can assure you that our local Door County Public Health along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services are working together every day to prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus situation.

Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, which may appear anywhere from two to 14 days after someone is exposed to the virus. Symptoms have ranged from a mild illness (like a common cold) to severe pneumonia requiring hospitalization.

The steps that all of us can take to help prevent the spread of this virus are the same as those used to protect against colds and flu:

- cover your coughs and sneezes
- wash hands frequently
- stay home when you're sick

Currently Door County Emergency Management is working on preparedness efforts as it relates to the coronavirus event as there have been no confirmed cases within the County to warrant any sort of response effort. The goal of preparedness is to ensure the whole community has the tools to be informed and know how to best protect themselves and their families. In an effort to achieve this goal, Door County Emergency Management would like to encourage the public to follow local, state, and federal public health guidance as it relates to this event.

Door County maintains an emergency response plan that is overseen by Door County Emergency Management. This plan is meant to cover all hazards, including public health emergencies and it both guides and assists all local governmental agencies during emergency situations. Likewise, Door County Public Health has a Public Health Emergency Plan (PHEP) that aligns with the County Emergency Response Plan and it provides more specific guidance and resources to the health department to be able to respond and recover from public health emergencies.

*****END*****